

In the claims

Please add new claims 6 and 7.

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for identifying clones of a recombinant library produced from DNA derived from ~~two or more~~ uncultivated organisms which express an enzyme with a desired characteristic, comprising:

screening in the liquid phase a library of a mixture of expression clones ~~randomly~~ produced from DNA ~~of two or more~~ randomly selected from uncultivated organisms, said screening being effected on expression products of said clones to thereby identify clones which express an enzyme with a desired characteristic.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA is modified or mutagenized prior to formation of the recombinant library.

3. (Currently Amended) A process of screening clones having DNA recovered from uncultivated organisms to identify an enzyme expressed therefrom having a specified enzymatic characteristic, which process comprises:

(i) recovering DNA ~~selectively~~ randomly selected from a mixed DNA population ~~derived from two or more~~ of uncultivated organisms by contacting the recovered DNA in a liquid phase assay under hybridizing conditions with at least one hybridizing probe containing a full-length coding region sequence or a partial coding region sequence for an enzyme having the specified enzymatic characteristic;

(ii) transforming a host cell with the recovered DNA to produce a library of clones; and

(iii) screening for the specified enzymatic characteristic in an expression product prepared by expressing the library of clones to obtain expression products, which are screened to identify the specified enzymatic characteristic.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the DNA is modified or mutagenized prior to forming the library of clones.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the specified enzymatic characteristic is selected from pH stability, temperature stability and substrate specificity of enzymatic activity.

6. (New) The method of claim 1 or 3, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic organism.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.